

Message Text

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TO USLO PEKING

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 213348

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EDX, CH, US

SUBJECT: US-PRC STUDENT EXCHANGES
REF: A) PEKING 2575, B) PEKING 2551, C) PEKING 2532,
D) PEKING 2519, E) STATE 204025, F) PEKING 2456

SUMMARY: CHINESE HAVE YET TO REPLY TO PRESS INVITATION TO
FANG YI, BUT PRC OFFICIALS HAVE INQUIRED ABOUT STATUS US
PLANNING REGARDING THE TWO-WAY EXCHANGE OF STUDENTS AND
SCHOLARS. PLANS FOR PILOT PROGRAM TO BEGIN THIS FALL ARE
BEING DEVELOPED AS IS PROGRAM FOR EXPANDED EXCHANGE
BEGINNING FALL OF 1979. WE WOULD APPRECIATE ANY ADDI-
TIONAL INFORMATION USLO COULD OBTAIN FROM PRC AUTHORITIES
REGARDING THEIR PLANS AND THINKING ABOUT EXCHANGE PRO-
GRAM. AUGUST 24 MEETING OF US EDUCATORS SHOULD GIVE US
BETTER READING REGARDING EXCHANGE POSSIBILITIES AND PRI-
VATE PLANNING. WE WILL ENDEAVOR TO KEEP POST INFORMED OF
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STATE-OF-PLAY IN THIS AREA. FINALLY, DEPARTMENT WISHES TO
COMMEND POST FOR EXCELLENT REPORTING ON STUDENT EXCHANGES.

END SUMMARY

1. CHINESE HAVE NOT YET REPLIED TO DR. FRANK PRESS INVI-
TATION TO FANG YI, BUT ON AUGUST 11 ANNE KEATLEY (OSTP)

AND MIKE OKSENBERG (NSC) MET WITH PRCLO OFFICIALS

(HSU CHIAO-HSIANG AND HU NAN-SHENG) AT THEIR REQUEST. THEY INQUIRED ABOUT STATUS OF US PLANNING FOR STUDENT EXCHANGE PROGRAM AND INDICATED INTEREST IN SENDING THE FIRST GROUP TO THE US THIS FALL.

2. FOLLOWING MEETING, WHITE HOUSE INSTRUCTED THE TASK FORCE ON EXCHANGES TO OUTLINE OPERATIONAL PROGRAM FOR PILOT EXCHANGE PROGRAM WHICH WOULD BEGIN THIS FALL. PROGRAM IS TO INCLUDE OPPORTUNITIES FOR ABOUT 50 CHINESE STUDENTS/SENIOR SCHOLARS TO STUDY/CONDUCT RESEARCH AT UNIVERSITIES AND GOVERNMENT LABS.

3. WHITE HOUSE ALSO SUGGESTED THAT FIVE AMERICAN STUDENTS BE SELECTED TO GO TO CHINA INCLUDE ONE OR TWO IN THE SOCIAL SCIENCES AND OTHERS IN CHINESE LANGUAGE (A CHANGE FROM COMPOSITION NOTED IN STATE 209839).

4. TASK FORCE IS WORKING ON MODALITIES OF PILOT PROGRAM AND PLANNING FOR EXPANDED EXCHANGE PROGRAM WHICH WOULD ENCOMPASS 500 PRC PARTICIPANTS AND AN UNSPECIFIED NUMBER OF AMERICANS BEGINNING IN THE FALL OF 1979. FIRST INCREMENT (200-250) OF PRC PARTICIPANTS WOULD ARRIVE US FOR LANGUAGE TRAINING IN MARCH 1979 WITH THE TOTAL TO REACH 500 BY SEPTEMBER, 1979.
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5. DEPARTMENT WOULD WELCOME USLO'S CONTACTING PRC AUTHORITIES TO ASCERTAIN THEIR VIEWS AND STATUS OF PRC PLANNING FOR THE EXCHANGE PROGRAM. ICA IS PROVIDING MATERIALS REQUESTED IN PARA. 7 OF REF A WHICH SHOULD PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES TO ELICIT PRC VIEWS REGARDING ENGLISH LANGUAGE TRAINING AND TESTING OF PRC EXCHANGE PARTICIPANTS. (FYI - PRCLO COUNSELOR HSIEH CHI-MEI HAS ALSO REQUESTED COPIES OF TOEFL EXAM FROM ICA.)

6. CSCPRC AUGUST 24 MEETING OF US EDUCATORS WILL PROVIDE FOR EXCHANGE OF VIEWS, HELP IN PLANNING OF USG FACILITATED EXCHANGES AND GIVE US A READING ON PRIVATE EXCHANGES UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES MAY BE CONTEMPLATING WITH THE PRC.

7. DEPARTMENT WILL PROVIDE POST WITH REPORT ON MEETING AND ENDEAVOR TO KEEP USLO INFORMED OF DEVELOPMENTS HERE WHICH FREQUENTLY ARE OVERTAKEN BY NEW INSTRUCTIONS ALMOST DAILY.

8. FINALLY, THE DEPARTMENT WISHES TO COMMEND THE POST

FOR ITS EXCELLENT REPORTING ON STUDENT EXCHANGES, AND IN
PARTICULAR FOR ITS REPORT ON OTHER COUNTRIES' EXCHANGE
PROGRAMS WITH THE PRC (REF F). WE HAVE REPEATED REF F

TO POSTS IN COUNTRIES HAVING PROSPECTIVE STUDENT EXCHANGE
PROGRAMS WITH THE PRC WITH A REQUEST THAT THEY DEVELOP
ANY INFORMATION AVAILABLE IN THEIR CAPITALS. CHRISTOPHER

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